Start of Charlotte Isler Collection

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AR 11626 V/1 Charlotte Isler Collection, 2007

Last updated in 2004

CHARLOTTE ISLER

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CURRICULUM VITAE

MAJOR CAREER ACTIVITIES/ OBJECTIVES

Medical/Healthcare/lay publications Author, Editor, and Writer. Clinical,administrative, and chief editor of nursing, medical,and other healthcare publications during the past 20 years.

Writer, producer of TV/Film healthcare scripts for healthcare personnel involved in caring for the elderly. (Scripts and films widely used in nursing homes and other facilities for the aged).

Author of several books for laymen, numerous articles in healthcare-and-related fields.

Popular, widely successful Writing Seminars. Developed for healthcare professionals and laymen who have no writing experience but want to learn to write and publish the results of their work or life experiences. Presented at medical centers, healthcare-and-continuing- education facilities throughout the United States.

Speaker on a variety of healthcare topics. Example: "Impotence in the USA," at Memorial City Medical Center, Houston TX, July '86.

HEALTH/CLINICAL/MEDICAL Publishing Experience

Writing, Publishing, Communications

CURRENTLY: President, Health Information Access (HIA) 1990 -
Create, write, format various publishing projects (books, journals, newsletters), primarily, but not exclusively, related to health concerns.

Editorial consultant, MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY, Cahners Publishing Company, New York, 1990-91

Chief Editor - MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY - 1983-1990

Clinical Editor, Administration
Associate Editor **1970 - 1983**
Contributing Editor

RN MAGAZINE, MEDICAL ECONOMICS COMPANY, ORADELL, NJ. (The journal is now called **RN**, and is located in Montvale, NJ).

Other publications on a wide variety of topics, 1970 - 1996:

- **Articles** and projects in health care published in other publications or areas.

- **Geriatric nursing:** Scripts, instruction manuals, and collaboration in producing TV educational films for ancillary healthcare personnel caring for the elderly in nursing homes.

- **Hospital Nursing Care:** Work with instructors of nurses' aides, and publication of a textbook for Nurses Aides preparing them for hospital patient care. See: "Publications" below.

CLINICAL (NURSING) EXPERIENCE - (about six years)

Inpatient/outpatient nursing services in medical, surgical, pediatric, OBG, and research areas.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

RN Graduate, The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, New York

Writing seminars, workshops, writing and literature courses at: Columbia University, Hunter College, City University of New York.

Courses and seminars in writing, publishing, nursing, medicine, and human sexuality.

LANGUAGES

German/English

CURRENT MAJOR STRENGTHS, SKILLS, and PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

CONSULTANT in

General development of editorial material in healthcare and other publications, including:

- Devising and executing concepts for new journals/publications.
- Developing innovative editorial features (articles, departments), and editorial formats.
- Teaching concepts for planning Art and Production.
- Initiating and producing projects for pharmaceutical companies.
- Supervising and teaching: Editorial, art, and production staff.
- Effective editorial fine tuning to achieve accurate and concise units of text and illustrations.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Nurses' Aide, a text for Nurses' Aides, Springer Publishing Company, New York, NY. 1973.

A Workbook For The Nurses' Aide, Springer Publishing Company, NY, 1973.
The above two titles were translated into German and subsequently published by Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany, 1978

Home Nursing Section, Book Of Knowledge, Grolier Publications, NY, 1979

Health Glossary Section, Physicians' Desk Reference for Nonprescription Drugs (PDR-NPR), MEDICAL ECONOMICS COMPANY, Oradell, NJ, 1980. Revised editions: 1981, 1982, 1983.

Isler's Pocket Dictionary, A Guide to Disorders & Diagnostic Tests, Procedures, Terms, MEDICAL ECONOMICS COMPANY, NJ, 1981. Expanded Second Edition: 1985. Revised, expanded Third Edition, 1990.

The above book revised, and published in a new edition as: Isler's Patient Guide To Medical Terminology, Revised Third Edition, PMIC, Los Angeles, 1995.

The Teen Health Dictionary, Franklin Watts/Grolier, 1996. This book tells tells teens about their physical and psychological development, illnesses common in that age group, including sexually transmitted diseases, drug/substance abuse, sexuality, and other topics of importance for adolescents. Co-authored by an adolescent medicine specialist.

In preparation:

Cat on Ice, a boys' adventure story

Biography of Florence Nightingale – (a book for children)

Program Yourself to Write!, for health care professionals and others who have never tried to write and publish. This book is an outgrowth of the many writing seminars I presented. It will enable readers to overcome their reluctance to write, allowing them produce an article, series of articles, report, or start on a book.

ARTICLES: A representative sample of (clinical, educational, and historical) cover stories and other features:

Rebel With A Cause - (Cover story) - The Life and Work of Florence Nightingale, RN MAGAZINE, 1970

New Approach To Intractable Pain: The Pain Clinic - (Cover story) RN MAGAZINE, 1975

Six Mistakes That Could Land You In Jail! - (Cover story) RN MAGAZINE, 1980

How Safe Is Your Hospital? - (Cover story) – Hospital Security Today, RN MAGAZINE, 1983

Sex And Your Heart, MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY, 1986

Sexual Emergencies, a monthly column, written and developed for MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY, 1989

NEWSLETTERS: Produced and distributed in several junior and senior high schools in New York City, these newsletters cover health-related topics of interest to, and important for teens, including:

- Weight gain/loss
- Pregnancy
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Depression
- Dysmenorrhea
- Sexual Abuse
- Herpes

PRESENTATION OF WRITING and PUBLISHING SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

A sample of invitational presentations for health professionals and others:

• American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) National Convention, New York, NY 1987

Topic: You've Got to Write Before You Can Publish!

• University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1984

Topic: Publish, Don't Perish

• Colorado Nurses' Association, annual "Chautauqua" educational meetings, Vail, CO: Informal presentations on writing and publishing, 1982-1987

• Sigma Theta Tau, Cornell University at New York Hospital, 1980

Topic: The Art of Writing and Rewriting: Importance of editing your work

• The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY: Annual Writing Seminar Presentations 1977 - 1985

Topic: Program Yourself to Write!

ORGANIZATIONS

Member, **The Authors Guild**

Member, **Board of Directors,** Alumnae Association, The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, New York, NY - several terms

President, The Foundation of the Alumnae Association, The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, New York, NY - two terms

Vice President, Alumnae Association, The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, 2000 – 2003

President, Alumnae Association, The Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, 1973 – 1978; 2003 - 2007

Treasurer/Secretary, Bruce Hungerford Memorial Foundation, 1977 -

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Teaching English as a second language; English/German literature; Classical music; playing piano duets; hiking; gardening.

Volunteer work as consultant to the Department of Nursing, Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, (Sleepy Hollow, NY)

AWARDS

The Distinguished Alumna Award – 1999

SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE RECOGNITION AWARD - 2004

(Among various others)

Hephzibah Anderson reveals the unknown heroism of a longtime London resident

Spotlight on the Swains Lane saviour

To celebrate her 90th birthday tomorrow, Lotte Passer's family is throwing a party. Relatives are flying in from around the world. Not that she is a party person; the family has insisted on it, she confides. Nevertheless, it is bound to be a happy — and emotional — occasion.

Although Lotte had just one older brother, married late, and remained childless herself, hers is a large family. Her mother was one of eight siblings, and her father one of five, and now, even her youngest cousins, those to whom she still refers as "the children," have become grandparents.

Time passes, life moves on, yet the fact remains that, were it not for Lotte, few, if any, of these relatives would be alive today.

Lotte Passer is a spry, elegant woman, her eyes fired with a determination that belies her years. Born and brought up in Berlin, and still possessing an émigré accent, her English is nonetheless fluent, idiomatic and expressive. "Where there's a will, there's a way" is one saying that she has notably taken to heart.

You almost certainly won't have heard of her, but, in the late 1930s, Passer managed to get some 60 souls — friends and family alike — out of Germany and into Britain, where she had initially come to learn English.

Not that she believes she did anything special. Neatly counterpointing the excuse so often wheeled out to justify precisely the opposite kind of action — or inaction — to hers, Passer explains that she simply did what she had to.

In April 1933, she was on a trip to Italy with her mother — the promised reward for passing her exams. There, they met a Jewish journalist, who warned them that they should not go back to Germany. More out of a sense of adventure than through fear, the 19-year-old Lotte persuaded her mother to change their route home to include a stopover in Paris.

Determined to "do what I had to" — Lotte Passer today and as she was as a young woman

When her mother returned home, Lotte stayed on to learn French, returning to Berlin every three months, and eventually striking a similar deal that enabled her to travel to London and learn English.

It was on a trip home a year later, in 1934, that she saw something that set her against ever returning again: two young men unscrewing a number plate from a Jewish doctor's car. "My mother would have done anything for me if I had gone home," she reflects, "but, from outside Germany, it was so obvious to me what was going on there."

Back in Berlin, her family clung to the belief that what they had witnessed happening to the city's Jewish lawyers and doctors would never happen to them or to the family company that made hat trimmings, hat bands, hat linings — everything but the hats themselves.

"That phrase — 'it won't happen to us' — became their slogan," Passer sighs. But she stayed on in England, enrolling at secretarial college and finding a job, while her family remained in Germany.

One day in November 1938, she glimpsed images on the newsstands that made her dash off a letter to her mother. It was the morning after *Kristallnacht*. Berlin's synagogues were burning, and she wrote simply: "I think it's time you packed." Over the ensuing months, Passer criss-crossed town, nagged and cajoled, faced down bureaucracy, worked her way through mountains of documentation and, as a result, was able to get out all of her immediate family except one of her father's sisters — some 40 people in all, plus 20 or so friends.

Today, she lives alone in the same Highgate house to which she first moved in order to accommodate all those she helped escape. She originally rented one room in the property, in Swains Lane. Then the refugees helped her to buy it.

Although passers-by will have no idea of the dramatic background of the occupant, they'll be aware of one of her lifelong passions — the gates to her home have a couple of bars of music wrought into the ironwork. Inside, the rooms are filled with heavy, evocative German furniture. "This is my house," she says, "but it's their home."

She plays down her remarkable efforts, insisting: "I was born under a lucky star." And indeed, it was great good fortune that led her, in the mid 1930s, to Professor Dingle, a leading British physicist, and his wife.

She answered an ad placed by the couple for a companion-cum-cook for Mrs Dingle. Despite the young Lotte's spectacular failure at this task, they allowed her to continue staying with them in Purley, in Surrey, and she became their life-long friend. To this day, she speaks of them as "my family" and keeps in contact with their surviving relatives.

It was largely Professor Dingle's friends who made up Lotte Passer's army of willing helpers — two guarantors for each German Jew arriving in Britain, as well as homes for the children. She also had a great deal of help from the Quakers.

On the other hand, she recalls the Anglo-Jewish community as having been far less forthcoming. "When people say to me the English are cold, I say you're talking to the wrong person," insists Lotte Passer, "I still kiss my British passport every morning."

End of Charlotte Isler Collection